

August 3, 2003

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Comments by Alex Hildebrand on the July 25 Draft of Chapter 5

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I believe there are serious issues that need discussion relative to this draft.

1) The side bar opposite lines 7 to 14 should be removed. As related to current drafts of the Water Plan, it misrepresents the effect of the Plan on agriculture and overstates the protection of the environment that the Plan would provide.

Three of the four scenarios under consideration would not maintain (preserve) agriculture at its present level of production. They would merely permit continued production at whatever level was possible with a diminishing portion of the State's developed water supply, and with an unsustainable groundwater overdraft.

We must protect the environment as much as we reasonably can. However, we can not "preserve and restore" the environment that is destroyed by urban sprawl, or prevent the use of land and water resources to meet the social needs of the growing population as it spreads over the landscape.

2) On line 14, page 1, what is meant by the "foundation of the Water Plan"?

3) The second paragraph on page 1 suggests that DWR can not propose measures that it does not have authority to implement. The paragraph should be expanded to say, "However, the Water Code does not require DWR to implement measures that could provide an adequate water supply. It is only required to identify them."

4) Add a bullet after the first bullet on page 1 to read "How much water will be needed outside of each region to produce the goods, services, food, etc., that are needed to be imported by the region"?

5) Add to line 2 on page 3 the phrase "and for the State as a whole".

- 6) Rewrite the bottom of page 3 starting at line 43 to say, “Providing full water supply to meet 100% of all projected water demands may not be the most socially acceptable goal. The goal of the Water Plan is to provide the legislature and the public with the information they need to decide how society wishes to balance costs versus the level of adequacy and dependability of the water supply that is provided to meet each and all purposes of need”.
- 7) Remove the side bar on page 3 or rewrite it to comply with the revised text.